Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): A method of administering an active agent to one or more of the esophagus, stomach, and small intestine by swallowing a safe and effective amount of a mucoretentive composition comprising from about 2% to about 50%, by weight of the composition, of colloidal particles of silicon dioxide, ~~and~~ a safe and effective amount of a pharmaceutical active selected from the group consisting of gastrointestinal agents, analgesics, decongestants, expectorants, antitussives, antihistamines, bronchodilators, topical anesthetics, sensory agents, and mixtures thereof, and from about 0.005% to about 3% by weight of citric acid or a salt thereof, wherein the mucoretentive composition is an aqueous mucoretentive composition.

Claim 37 (canceled)

Claim 38 (previously presented): The method of Claim 36 wherein the mucoretentive composition is not further diluted with any liquid prior to administration and the level of colloidal particles of silicon dioxide is from about 3% to about 15%, by weight of the mucoretentive composition.

Claim 39 (previously presented) The method of Claim 36 wherein the silicon dioxide has a mean particle size of less than about 1 micron.

Claim 40 (canceled)

Claim 41 (previously presented): The method of Claim 38 wherein the silicon dioxide is selected from the group consisting of fumed silicon dioxide, precipitated silicon dioxide, coacervated silicon dioxide, gel silicon dioxide, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method of Claim 36 wherein the salt of citric acid is sodium citrate.

Claim 43 (currently amended): An oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) from about 2% to about 50%, by weight of the composition, of colloidal particles of silicon dioxide; ~~and~~

(b) a safe and effective amount of a pharmaceutical active selected from the group consisting of gastrointestinal agents, analgesics, decongestants, expectorants, antitussives, antihistamin s, bronchodilators, topical anesthetics, sensory agents, and mixtures thereof; and

(c) from about 0.005% to about 3.0% by weight of citric acid or a salt thereof.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition of Claim 43 wherein the composition comprises from about 3% to about 20% by weight of the colloidal particles of silicon dioxide.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition of Claim 44 wherein the silicon dioxide has a mean particle size of less than about 1 micron.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition of Claim 43 wherein the silicon dioxide is selected from the group consisting of fumed silicon dioxide, precipitated silicon dioxide, coacervated silicon dioxide, gel silicon dioxide, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 47 (canceled)

Claim 48 (currently amended): The oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition of Claim ~~47~~ 43 wherein the salt of citric acid is sodium citrate.